

# Skiing and Snowshoeing:

By: Erdan Darante    **A D&D Equipment Supplement**

*The people of the mountain must find convenient ways to ascend and descend its perilous slopes. Adventures through frozen tundras and steep shaled mountains have proven to be a challenge. Clammering up to the Amber Temple in the Balinok Mountains of Barovia or having to weave my way down the White Fang Mountains in Erilea. I have learned the importance of simple winter gear such as snowshoes, pickaxes, cloaks, and skis. . . .*

-Englath "Healthbringer" of clan Anakalathi, goliath adventurer



While skis and snowshoes have been detailed in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Dungeons & Dragons, 5<sup>th</sup> edition D&D seems to have completely forgotten about skis even in *Icewind Dale: Rime of the Frostmaiden*.

This 5<sup>th</sup> edition D&D supplement expands on both the statistics and detailed descriptions of skis and snowshoes. Adaptable to any D&D world or setting, this one-page supplement can enrich any arctic terrain based adventure into a more fun, faster paced, and less bogged down campaign.

Below are the statistics and description of both skis and snowshoes:

## Skis

Skis allow for quick passage over long distances and steep downhills in snow covered terrains. Skis are mobile and can be carried with ease when not in use, by being strapped to a backpack with rope.

**Contents.** A set of skis and poles consist of two wooden poles and two skis. Each pole is made of a flexible yet durable wood with a wrist strap attached at the top and a basket with a metal tip at the bottom. Each ski is made of cured wood with a curved front toe. Some skis may be glazed on the base to increase glide. Each ski also has a leather strap which allows for the user to tie in their boots into the skis. The leather straps can also be adjusted to free the heel of the boot for climbing.

Optionally, some skis come with skins which are attached to the base of the ski. While your heels remain loose you can ski up most inclines in a nordic skiing manner. These skins can be removed and the heels clipped in again to descend a snowy slope.

**Skiing Abilities.** While you have both skis fastened to your feet your speed while gliding on snow is doubled. Furthermore, any difficult terrain which would decrease your speed due to the deepness of the snow is ignored. These skis also have the ability to ascend any snowy slope when the skins are attached. In case of an avalanche or similar snow-related accident you have advantage on the Strength saving throw to escape it as you attempt to remain on the surface of the snow by skiing.

## Snowshoes

Snowshoes enable the wearer to walk across deep snow without falling into it. Snowshoes are even lighter than skis and can be easily stowed away inside a backpack or tied to the side by a piece of rope.

**Contents.** Snowshoes usually come without poles but can be paired with some. Poles for snowshoeing are identical to poles for skiing. Snowshoes primarily consist of a wooden frame woven over with tight leather bands to create a flat basket-like contraption. Each snowshoe has a leather strap with a loose heel, allowing for the user to walk across deep snow drifts and arctic terrain.

**Snowshoes Abilities.** In difficult terrain where your speed is decreased due to the deepness of the snow, your speed takes no penalties. This only applies if you are wearing the snowshoes. Furthermore, any dash actions with snowshoes doubles your walking speed and no modifies to decrease your speed can be applied which pertain to the deepness of the snow terrain you are traveling on.